Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know how long it will take to submit its report to the Government ? It is already 16 months ; how much more time will it require to submit its report to the Government ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The draft report was passed at a meeting held on the 27th of Mithunam 1102. It had to be signed by the members and submitted to the Government. But one member, Mr. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar, was absent.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—So the draft report contains the signatures of the others.

President.—So the draft report was passed at that meeting.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes ; and the fair report is just ready.

42. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of meetings of the Excise Committee held in the first 9 months after the appointment of the Committee ;

(b) whether the Committee at its first meeting had not decided that the next meeting should be held in last Kanni and whether there was any meeting in Kanni as decided upon and to mention the reason for not holding a meeting in that month as decided upon by the Committee at its meeting;

(c) whether the Convener has the power and authority to annul the decisions arrived at by the Committee at its meetings and if he has no such power, why did he not call together the meeting in Kanni;

(d) whether the Convener informed the members of the Committee that the meeting arranged to be held in Kanni could not be held for some reason or other and did he ascertain the opinion of the members in this matter; and if he did not do so, what is the reason for not doing so ;

(e) whether any letter was received by the Convener from any of the members of the Committee for holding a meeting before the last budget session of the Council to consider any definite matter ; and, if so, whether the letter be printed and placed on the table ;

(f) whether the Convener convened the meeting as requested, replied the letter or acknowledged the receipt of it ;

(g) whether any member of the Committee wrote to the Government about the irregular way in which the work of the Committee has been done and recording his disapprobation and if so, whether copies of such letters be printed and placed on the table ;

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(h) whether any action has been taken by the Government or the Chairman of the Committee with reference to the letters mentioned in (g) ; and, if so, whether the replies sent by the Government and Chairman be placed on the table and state what action has been taken by them ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) The Member is referred to the answer to part (a) of question No. 309 of the legislative session of 1102.

(b) Vide answer to part (b) of the same question.

(c) There has been no annulment of the decisions arrived at. The reasons for not holding the meeting are contained in the answer to part (b) above.

(d) The date of the proposed meeting in Kanni was not fixed. Since no meeting could be held in the month for the reason given in answer to part (b) of the question, no formal information was given to the members nor their opinion ascertained. There was no particular reason for not doing so. The Convener did not think it necessary.

(e) Vide answer to part (c) of question No. 309 of the legislative session of 1102. The letter was once placed on the Secretary's table.

(f) Do. do.

(g) and (h). Vide answer to question No. 309 (d) to (f) of the legislative session of 1102.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—" Whether that letter be printed and placed on the table"—that portion has not been answered. The answer should be " yes " or " no " . This is no answer to my question. I now put the question whether it will be placed on the table ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The letter was once placed on the Secretary's table.

President.—If you placed it on the Secretary's table, it would be taken away after the use. Have you got that particular letter here ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Now, the question is why it was not printed and placed on the table. During the last legislative session, the answer given was that Government did not consider it necessary to call for the papers. That is why this answer is given. The letter was once placed on the Secretary's table.

President.—The question asked is whether the Member can have the use of the letter now.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar—I have not got it now.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Without the letter, I am not in a position to put any supplementary questions.

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